

had been a most active Republican and was peculiarly odious to the commercial element of the city. A formal remonstrance was forwarded to Jefferson, and this, coupled with the importance of the office, moved him, for the only time in his career, to send back a reply. He was not content with a mere defense of his appointment; he went further and assumed the aggressive, concluding with the words: "I shall correct the procedure of Mr. Adams; but that done, return with joy to that state of things when the only question concerning a candidate shall be, Is he honest? Is he capable? Is he faithful to the Constitution?"

When Congress met in December the Republicans had for the first time a majority in both Houses. There proceedings were not, as under the former administrations, opened with a set speech from the President. Jefferson regarded this as the chief of the ceremonials which he wished to end; and he transmitted to each House a written message, explaining in a brief, note to the President of the Senate his reasons for changing the custom. This was in harmony with a systematic plan to check the tendency of his predecessors to exalt the executive above the legislative department and above private citizens. His first message was concerned entirely with domestic affairs. The note which strikes most forcibly the reader of the present day, is its advocacy of economy\* along all lines of public expenditure. To this end Jefferson suggested a thorough revision of: the civil service, the army, and the navy. Significant suggestions were made as to the action Congress might take on the judiciary system, and especially

"that portion of it recently erected."  
A revisal of the harsh naturalization laws was recommended. Throughout the whole message it was evident that Jefferson wished to undo as far as possible the legislation of the preceding administration.

These recommendations were closely followed by Congress. The very first one of them was a sharp rebuke to the Federalists. By an almost strict party vote, newspaper reporters were ad-

\*See Economy, page 193.